

## Kentucky Safety Summit

### Ideas from the Northeast Safety Meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2008

#### The Ideas from the Northeast Safety Meeting

On the weekend of May 26<sup>th</sup>, an Ad hoc committee of 60 eventing enthusiasts met in Manchester, NH to investigate, discuss and express their concerns regarding the level of safety in the equestrian sport of eventing. The meeting lasted approximately four hours and a concerned but constructive tone was set by the moderator, Denny Emerson. Among these attendees were long time advanced competitors as well as lower level riders, trainers, officials, course designers, owners and engineers.

The ideas and discussions of the meeting have been organized into the same format that will be used at the Safety Summit conducted by the USEF and USEA in Lexington, KY. This has been done in order to facilitate the use of the Ad hoc committee report for the national meeting in Lexington.

#### Qualifications

- Qualifications to compete at any level should be more stringent
- Keeping better records of dangerous and potentially abusive riding
- USEA needs more pull on rules and regulations of our sport (less reliance on USEF)
- Horse and rider must qualify as a combination to compete in an FEI level competition
- Limit the number of horses that one rider can compete at any given competition
- Limit the number of CIC/CCI competitions for one horse as was practiced when the long format was in effect- BRING THE LONG FORMAT BACK).

#### Course Design

- Take vertically- faced square tables out NOW as they allow no margin for error
- Frangible pins must be mandatory
- Time faults for ALL levels-penalize for going too fast as well as too slow
- Speeds at the upper levels are not compatible with the technicality of the courses
- Engineer jumps to collapse under significant impact

#### Education

- Education comes from experience
- Lack of horsemanship
- Competitors and horses moving up too fast
- The long format fostered fitness education for both horse and rider
- Rider rep concept- officials need to listen to the riders
- “Why do I see ICP rated instructors riding around the foundation in NC with baseball hats on their heads?” – Denny Emerson

#### Veterinary

- Research pulmonary concerns
- Long format- lameness and heart rate were monitored before sending a horse out on course
- Every horse death should cause an immediate inquiry with all of the horse’s connections (trainer, rider, owner)

#### Long vs. Short Format

##### **Long Format**

- Vitals, lameness were evaluated before going out on course
- CCI in the spring and CCI in the fall- less competition, more attention to fitness
- Steeplechase was a mental and physical warm-up for XC
- Steeplechase was always the fastest speed over FORGIVING obstacles
- Fitness was the goal

##### **Short Format**

- No baseline established- horses are going out on course without prior examination
- Horses run multiple CIC/CCI competitions- more stress/strain on limbs/cardio/mental
- No mental or physical warm-up
- Riders are compensating for increased technicality by jumping UNFORGIVING straightforward obstacles at dangerous speeds
- Dressage and showjumping perfection is the goal